

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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DODE-00 AGR-10 INT-05 COME-00 /123 W

----- 028809

R 141646Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7148

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

47*#,6/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 1756

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS COTONOU 635

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: COTONOU/PARAKOU DELIVERY LINE WEEKLY REPORT III MAY 4-10

ROME FOR FODAG

REF A. STATE 89835 B. COTONOU 510 C. COTONOU 573 D. COTONOU 589

E. COTONOU 627

1. DURING REPORTING PERIOD, 40 MT OF FED SORGHUM REPORTEDLY 277 MT OF CARE BISCUITS AND 97 MT OF CANADIAN DRIED MILK FOR A TOTAL OF 414 MT RELIEF GOODS WERE EVACUATED BY RAIL FROM COTONOU. AIDOFF SEEKING TO CONFIRM NUMBER QUOTED FOR BISCUITS AS IT REPRESENTS TWICE AS MUCH AS WE THOUGHT THERE WAS IN PORT. NO RELIEF GOODS WERE EVACUATED BY TRUCK. 600 MT OF COMMERCIAL SALT WERE EVACUATED BY RAIL FOR A TOTAL OF 1026 MT ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS REPRESENTING 43 PERCENT OF APPLICABLE RAIL CAPACITY. AN ADDITIONAL 12 MT OF FED SORGHUM WAS EVACUATED BY TRUCKHROR AN AVERAGE OF 61 MT OF RELIEF GOODS PER DAY.

2. DURING REPORTING PERIOD, 2336 MT TOTAL GOODS INCLUDING 92 MT RELIEF GOODS WERE EVACUATED FROM PARAKOU LEAUNP STOCKS THERE ON MAY 10 OF 2727 MT. REPORTEDLY ONLY ABOUT 40 WAGONS UNCLASSIFIED

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PER DAY

EVE BEEN SIDELINED IN PARAKOU, BUT RELIABLE DAILY
FIGURES ARE PROVING DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN.

3. AS OF 12 MAY, COTONOU PORT STOCKS AS FOLLOWS (MT):

COMMERCIAL

SUGAR 1410
SALT 7214
SORGHUM 866
GENERAL MERCHANDISE 1421

RELIEF GOODS

FED SORGHUM 2836
CANADIAN WHEAT FLOUR 4934
CANADIAN SEMOLINA 3580
CANADIAN MILK POWDER 4
CARE BISCUITS 47
UNICEF ICSM 532

WITH EXCELTION OF ICSM FOR MALI, ALL THESE GOODS BOUND FOR NIGER. THESE FIGURES CUFLECT MAY 9 ARRIVAL OF 4934 MT WHEAT FLOUR, 3508 MT SEMOLINA AND 102 MT MILK POWDER FROM CANADA. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT ALMOST ALL THE MILK HAS ALREADY BEEN EVACUATED FROM THE PORT, PERHAPS BECAUSE HIGHER OCDN TARIFF ON MILK MEANS MILK HIGHER PROFIT ITEM TO SHIP. ALSO NOTE THAT 29 MT DROP IN STOCKS OF ICSM NOT REFLECTED IN EVACUATION FIGURES. PERHAPS ICSM SHIPMENT MISTAKENLY ATTRIBUTED TO OTHER COMMODITIES SUCH AS BISCUITS.

4. COMMENT: WFP MONITOR CHARACTERIZES SITUATION AS, "WORSE THAN LAST YEAR". ALTHOUGH QUANTITIES ARE LOWER, SYSTEM IS SAID TO BE OPERATING MUCH LESS SMOOTHLY. NOT ONLY ARE RELIEF GOODS TONNAGES A FRACTION OF WHAT THEY SHOULD BE (SEE REFS), BUT OCDN FALLING FAR SHORT OF COMMITMENT TO DEVOTE 60 PER-CENT OF APPLICABLE RAIL CAPACITY (PARA 5, REF C) TO ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS. PER REF E, NIGER CONCERNED ABOUT LACK OR PRIORITY ACCORDED TO ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS. SEASON OF HEAVY COTTON AND FERTILIZER DEMANDS ON RAILROAD IS PASSED AND WAGONS DO NOT SEEM UNCLASSIFIED

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EXCESSIVELY PILED UP IN EITHER PARAKOU OR COTONOU. RESEARCH BEING UNDERTAKEN THIS WEEK TO DISCOVER WHEREABOUTS OF WAGONS. AS TIME GROWS SHORTER, POSSIBLE NEED TO UTIZE MALIAN OR THIRD-COUNTRY TRUCKS GROWS GREATER. IF AVAILABILITY OF TRUCKS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES HAS NOT BEEN EXPLORED, NOW IS THE TIME. IT WOULD NOW REQUIRE AN EXTREMELY HIGH PRIORITY TO COMPLETE GAO SHIPMENTS BEFORE 1 AUG. UNLESS WE WEE MEANS WHEREBY SUCH PRIORITY CAN BE OBTAINED, ADDITIONAL TRUCKS FROM SOMEWHERE

SEEM ONLY POSSIBILITY TO COMPLETE COTONOU-GAO SHIPMENT IN TIME.

WFP REP MAY REQUEST DIVERSION OF GAO SHIPMENT IF SITUATION

DOES NOT IMPROVE WITHIN A WEEK.

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